Lolo National Forest Trails Missoula Ranger District

Lolo Peak Trail #1311



Item Remarks

Managed Use(s): Hiker

Difficulty: Moderate to difficult, about 10 to 12 percent grade.

Trail Length: 3.6 miles one way to the junction with trail #326 near the junctions of

Mormon and Carlton ridges.

Trail Termini: Beginning - Trailhead off forest service road # 612 (Mormon Peak Road)

Ending - Maintained trail ends at the southern end of Mormon Ridge, but drops down as an un-maintained trail to where the Bitterroot National

Forest boundary is, at the junction of trail #326.

Trail elevation: Lowest/beginning is 5700 ft.

Highest/ending is Lolo Peak at 9096 ft. North summit is 8694 ft.

Managed Use

Seasons: Summer/fall

Maintenance: Trail is maintained every two years from the trailhead to the south end of

Mormon Ridge where it junctions with trail #326. Trail #326 continues for

½ mile to Carlton Lake.

Trip Type/Duration: Strenuous, all-day hike.

Trail Usage: Moderate

Trailhead Facilities: Parking for 6-8 cars; developed drinking water is NOT AVAILABLE.

Trail Use Restriction: Closed to all motorized vehicles and mountain bikes.

Reference Maps: USGS Topographic Quadrangle: Carlton Lake Quadrangle

Map Location: Section 14, T11N, R20W

Associated Trails: Mill Creek Trail #1310 meets Lolo Peak Trail #1311, 3/4 mile from

trailhead. Trail #326 on the Bitterroot National Forest is reached at a junction with an old road bed that is located at the southern base of Mormon Ridge and heads south to Carlton Lake and into the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. There is no constructed trail route from Carlton

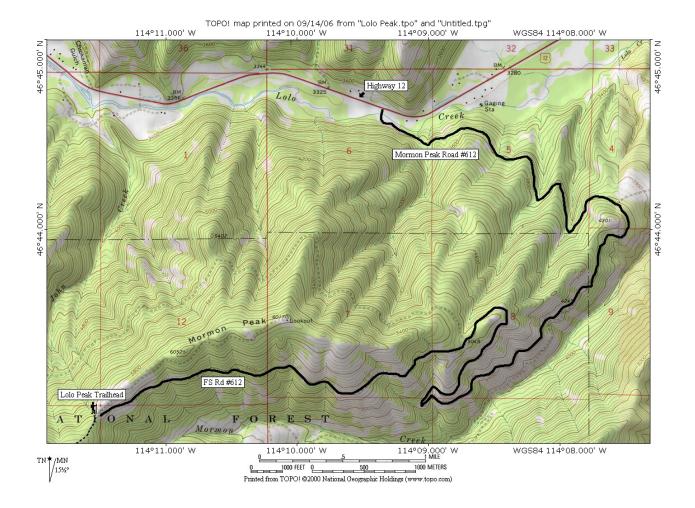
Lake to Lolo Peak.

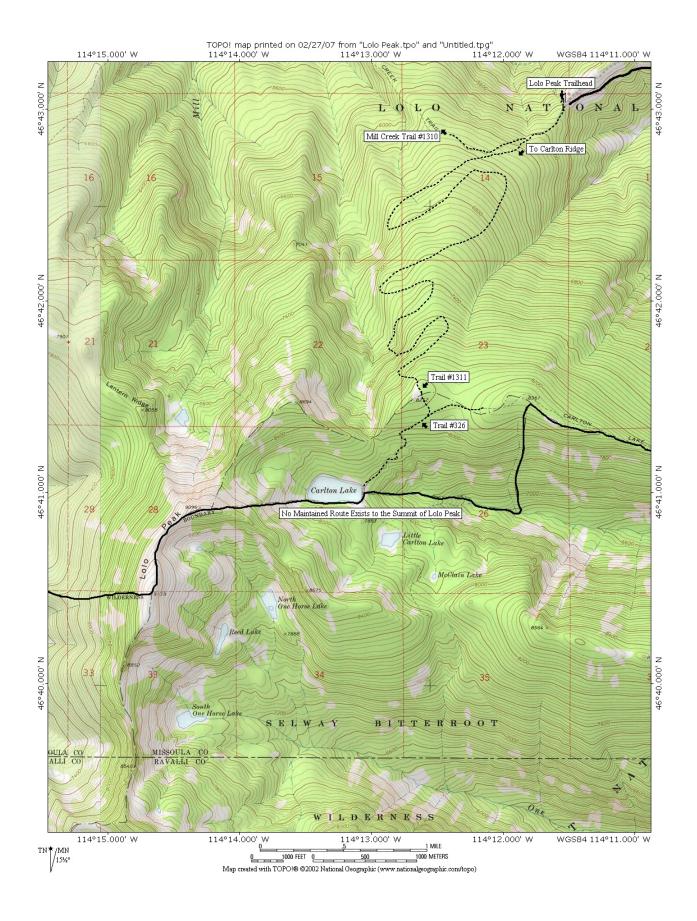
Attractions and Considerations:

Welcome to the Lolo Peak Trail. Prepare to be enchanted by the deeply shaded lodgepole pine forest, amazed by the variety of wildflowers, and gratified by a quick dip into ice cold Carlton Lake. After a quick cool down, continue beyond the lake to the top of Lolo peak, to what residents consider a breathtaking landmark in the great landscape that surrounds their homes. Views from the top are full of unending scenery of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, the Missoula and Bitterroot Valley's, and far into the distance the Mission Mountains.

Accessing the Trail:

Take highway 12 from Lolo and travel west about 3 miles to take a left onto Mormon Peak Road #612. The road crosses a cattle-guard which is followed by a forest service sign listing Mormon Peak-9 miles and Lolo Peak trail-8 miles. Follow the dirt road which is in fair condition, but watch for rocks and debris which fall as the snow melts. Pot holes are also a common affair along the road but not too bad, so expect to slow down and enjoy the ride. You will drive 8 miles until you see a hiking symbol sign. There is a turnout area just ahead on the left located on a sharp bend in the road. Please park far enough off of the road for other cars to get by, but stay off of vegetation as much as possible. Do not block the gate or other roads near the parking area.





For more information contact the Missoula Ranger District at 406-329-3814.